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May 17, 2005

FEDERAL JURY FINDS ROCKFORD MAN GUILTY OF BEING A FELON IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM AND POSSESSION OF A SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; PAUL LOGLI, Winnebago County State's Attorney; and STEVEN PUGH, Chief of the Rockford Police Department, today made the following announcement:

A federal jury in Rockford today found **TERRY N. TAYLOR**, 42 (DOB: 10/09/62), formerly of 2228 S. Central Avenue, Rockford, guilty of being a felon in possession of a firearm and of possession of an unregistered firearm, a "sawed-off" shotgun. The jury's verdict followed a two-day trial.

Evidence presented at trial established that on March 8, 2004, Taylor, who had previously been convicted of a felony, knowingly possessed a 12-gauge pump shotgun that had traveled across state lines prior to his possession of it. Evidence further established that the shotgun he possessed was a sawed-off shotgun that had a barrel length of less than 18 inches, and that Taylor was not registered with the ATF to possess the gun.

Sentencing for Taylor will be conducted on July 29, 2005, at 9:00 a.m. Taylor faces a minimum sentence of 15 years in federal prison without parole on the charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm, a maximum of 10 years in federal prison without parole on the charge of possession of an unregistered firearm, as well as a period of supervised release of 3 to 5 years following release from prison. The actual sentence will be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

First charged by the Winnebago County States Attorney's Office under state law, Taylor was transferred to federal court where he was charged under tough federal firearms laws as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods program. Project Safe Neighborhoods is an intensive, cooperative effort between local, state, and federal law enforcement to attack gun crimes. The cornerstone of the program is that every defendant charged in state court for an offense involving a gun will be reviewed for possible federal prosecution in order to obtain the harshest penalties for the worst offenders. Additional information about Project Safe Neighborhoods may be found at www.psn.gov.

The case was investigated by the Rockford Office of the ATF and the Rockford Police Department. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorneys Michael F. Iasparro and Mark T. Karner.

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